GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

PUBLIC SERVICES – Forest Department – Allegation of corruption of demand and acceptance of bribe against Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad @ Babi, formerly Forest Section Officer, Vontimamidi Section, Kakinada Division, Kakinada, East Godavari District – Trapped on 07.02.2018 – Sanction for Prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 – Accorded – Orders – Issued.

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ENVIRONMENT, FOREST, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY(Sec.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 20 Dated: 31-03-2021

O R D E R:

WHEREAS, Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad, S/o Subba Rao, worked as Forest Section Officer, Vontimamidi Section, Kakinada Range, Kakinada, East Godavari District from 19.09.2015 to 07.02.2018 and by virtue of the post held by him, he falls under the category of Public Servant as defined under section 2(c) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

2. AND WHEREAS Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu, S/o Nooka Raju is a resident of Main road, Pithapuram Town, East Godavari District and he runs Sai Datha Timber Depot, at Pithapuram Town, East Godavari District. He procures Neredu and Mamidi wood logs from surrounding saw mills, prepares wooden articles and sells them for his livelihood which needs no license from the Forest Department. On 11.01.2018 while Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu was leaving for Tirupathi, he handed over the keys of his timber depot to his cousin Sri Chekka Srinivasa Rao to attend to his customers in his absence. On 12.01.2018, Sri Goutham Vara Prasad, Forest Section Officer went to the timber depot of Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu took the keys from Sri Chekka Srinivasa Rao and contacted through his cell phone No.7382603174 to the cell phone bearing No.9059616922 of Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu and questioned him how he has been running timber depot without obtaining license and took away the bill found therein and also the keys of the depot which he had taken from Sri Chekka Srinivasa Rao and Sri Goutham Vara Prasad also directed Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu to meet him as soon as he returned from Tirupathi. Accordingly, Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu met Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad on 17.01.2018 and requested him to return the keys of his timber depot and also informed him that the permit bill found in his depot relates to purchase of teak wood from Krishna Saw Mill in favour of his brother-in-law and the same was utilized. Then Sri Munganada Goutham Vara Prasad, Forest Section Officer (FSO) stated that the Range Officer should inspect the depot. Accordingly, on 23.01.2018 Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad, FSO and the Range Officer Sri R.V.Rama Rao inspected the depot and locked the depot and while leaving Sri Rama Rao, asked Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu to come to Range Office, on the next day i.e. on 24.01.2018. Accordingly, when Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu met the Range Officer Sri R.V. Rama Rao at his office, he advised him to negotiate matter with the Forest Section Officer Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad. Accordingly, when Sri Chekka Paradha Saradhi @ Krishnababu met FSO, Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad, he threatened that he would seize the depot as he did not possess license. So saying the FSO Sri Vara Prasad demanded Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi to pay bribe of Rs.1 lakh for himself and for Range Officer for abstaining them. When Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu questioned that no article which required license was found

during inspection and requested for issue receipt for taking the keys of depot. But the FSO Sri Munganada Goutham Vara Prasad did not heed to his request. When Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu expressed his inability to pay Rs.1,00,000/-, the FSO Sri Vara Prasad initially reduced the bribe amount to Rs.50,000/- and on repeated requests of Sri Pardha Saradhi, the FSO, Sri Vara Prasad further reduced bribe amount to Rs.25,000/-. Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu left the office of Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad stating that he will think over and meet him again. On 30.01.2018 Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad, FSO contacted Sri Pardha Saradhi over his cell phone and questioned him for not brining the bribe amount. Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu informed that he could not procure the money. But the FSO Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad reiterated his earlier demand and threatened that Sri Pardha Saradhi would face the consequences. Later, Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad several times contacted Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu over phone and demanded him to pay the bribe amount. Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu informed to the FSO Sri Vara Prasad that he was suffering from ill health and would meet him later. On 04.02.2018 when Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu met the FSO Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad at his house and requested to reduce the bribe amount. The FSO Sri Vara Prasad reduced the bribe amount to Rs.20,000/- stated that he will get the depot keys delivered by the Ranger in the event of the payment of bribe on 07.02.2018 at his office or else the depot would be seized. Having no other option Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu agreed to pay the bribe amount.

3. AND WHEREAS Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi was not willing to pay bribe, he lodged a report to the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB), Rajamahendravaram on 06.02.2018. After following due procedure the DSP registered the said report as a case in Cr.No.01/RCT-RJY/2018 under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 on 07.02.2018 at 06.30 hrs and made arrangements for laying trap.

4. AND WHEREAS, having completed the pre-trap proceedings on 07.02.2018, the trap party left to the house of Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad, Forest Section Officer, where he was trapped when he further demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs.20,000/-(Rupees twenty thousand only) from Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi. During post-trap proceedings, the fingers of both the hands of Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad, were subjected to chemical tests and they yielded positive result. In pursuance of the information furnished by Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad, tainted amount of Rs.20,000/-(Rupees twenty thousand only) was recovered from computer table available in his master bed room. The serial numbers of the recovered currency notes were found tallied with the serial Nos. of the currency notes handed over by Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi @ Krishnababu during pre-trap proceedings. The chemical test conducted on the surface of the computer table yielded positive result. When the DSP asked FSO Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad about the keys of the Timber Depot of Sri Chekka Pardha Saradhi, the FSO Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad took out said keys from the Computer table desk situated in the master bed room of his house and handed over to one of the mediators. The DSP seized the said keys, tainted amount and samples of resultant solutions, and prepared rough sketch of scene of offence.

5. AND WHEREAS, the above said acts of Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad, Forest Section Officer, Vontimamidi Section, Kakinada Division,

Kakinada, East Godavari District constitute offences punishable under sections 7 and clause (b) of sub-section(1) of section 13 read with sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

6. AND WHEREAS, The Government of Andhra Pradesh being the competent authority to remove Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad, Forest Section Officer, Vontimamidi Section, Kakinada Division, Kakinada, East Godavari District from service after fully and carefully examining the material (i.e.FIR, Mediator Reports, Final Investigation Report etc.,) placed before them in respect of the said allegations and having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case consider that Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad, Forest Section Officer, Vontimamidi Section, Kakinada Division, Kakinada, East Godavari District should be prosecuted in a Court of Law.

7. NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-section(1) of section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, the Government hereby accorded sanction for prosecution of Sri Munganda Goutham Vara Prasad, Forest Section Officer, Vontimamidi Section, Kakinada, East Godavari District for the said offences punishable under sections 7 and clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 13 read with sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and for any other cognate offences punishable under any other provisions of Law for the time being in force in respect of the aforesaid acts and for taking cognizance of the said offences by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

VIJAY KUMAR G.Srkr
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau,
A.P., Vijayawada.
Copy to:
Law (G) Department